GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
REVIEW OF RELATIONS WITH USA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new regime in USA has shown interest in friendly relations with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Indian foreign policy is likely to be influenced ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Yes. The new US Administration led by President Barack Obama who assumed office on January 20,2009 has shown a keen interest in strengthening Indo-US bilateral relations.President Obama,in a message to President of India on January 25,2009 on the occasion of India`s Republic Day, celebrated the shared beliefs,the broad and vibrant partnerships between India and the USA in every field of human endeavour and said that `the people of India should know that they have no better friend and partner than the people of the United States.` The US Secretary of State,in her first foreign policy statement after assuming office,expressed the desire of the new US Administration to build on the existing economic and political partnership with India and take the existing bilateral relationship to a new level.

(c) India`s foreign policy is solely guided by its national interest.